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**Over the previous four decades, the District's Hispanic population grew by over 380%; today, nearly 63,000 Hispanics call the city home.**

*Race for Results Identifies Need to Create More Opportunity for Success for all Children, Especially Those of Color*

The District's future prosperity depends on our ability to prepare ALL children to achieve their full potential in life. A new report from [DC Action for Children](#) shows we have much ground to cover to ensure that ALL kids – especially children of color – are positioned to thrive and succeed.

The new [DC KIDS COUNT](#) brief is part of ***Race for Results: Building a Path to Opportunity for All Children***. A series of publications from [DC Action for Children](#), in partnership with the [Annie E. Casey Foundation](#), to explore how race and ethnicity intersect with youth and child well-being in the District of Columbia.

Around the country, growing participation in early care and education seems to be leaving Hispanic children behind; Hispanic children are considerably less likely to be enrolled in an early childhood program than their white or African-American peers. Existing research on Hispanic access to early care and education suggests that a number of different factors interact to limit both the supply and demand of early care and education programs for Hispanic families.

As the District continues its dramatic demographic shifts, it is clear that the ethnic, racial, and economic diversity of its residents cannot be divided into a neat dichotomy. Hispanic children have changed the face of District classrooms, yet many of these students face significant challenges to their academic success.

“We see Hispanic-American children from immigrant families facing some of the steepest obstacles to overcome. They encounter challenges related to poverty and limited education as they try to succeed in a new culture. Often, language and cultural differences make it difficult for children and families to understand and navigate education and health services,” shares Maria Gomez, president and chief operating officer of [Mary's Center](#).

Our new policy brief draws on existing research, census and school data, and interviews with early childhood practitioners, administrators, and government officials with experience serving the Hispanic community to explore the structural, demographic and cultural factors that support and suppress Hispanic access to early care and education programs in the District. The data can better inform policymakers who create policies and programs that will benefit all children, while targeting strategies and investments where attention is needed most.

To give young Hispanic learners the developmental foundation for success in school and beyond, the city must craft policy that directly responds to barriers and ensure that the services and supports designed to address the unique needs of this population are available in the communities in which they live. With the District's Hispanic population continuing to grow, the quality of educational opportunities available to Hispanic children, from birth through graduation, will play a critical role in determining the city's future economic and social development.

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Founded in 1992, DC Action for Children ([www.dckids.org](http://www.dckids.org)) is a nonprofit organization focused on improving conditions and outcomes for the District's children, youth and families through public awareness, policy, research and technical assistance. DC Action is the KIDS COUNT grantee for the District, tracking key indicators of child and youth well-being and neighborhood well-being for children and youth. Follow us on Twitter at @ActforDChildren and like us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/dcaction>.

The Annie E. Casey Foundation creates a brighter future for the nation's children by developing solutions to strengthen families, build paths to economic opportunity and transform struggling communities into safer and healthier places to live, work and grow. For more information, visit [www.aecf.org](http://www.aecf.org). KIDS COUNT® is a registered trademark of the Annie E. Casey Foundation.